

August 21 2020

# Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

## How the IT team has kept the court working during the public health crisis

With all the changes that have taken place in our workplace over the past few months, there is one thing that we have continued to be able to rely on: easy access to our computer networks.

That is due to the hard work, agility and ingenuity of the Second Judicial District Court's Information Technology team. Whether it was laying the groundwork for many of us to work from home, developing processes to enable virtual court hearings or building an infrastructure to support COVID-safe in-person jury trials, this group has answered the challenge. They also have done it in what at least appears to be seamless fashion.



**The SJDC IT team has set the standard for keeping court operations running during the pandemic. Metro Court IT staffers Christopher Siegel, left, and Phillip Gallegos, right, visited with SJDC IT Operations Manager Martin Davis to learn how our court is supporting jury trials.**

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham declared a public health emergency and called on citizens to start social distancing.

"We immediately had to prepare for roughly 80% of our workforce working offsite," Martin recalled. "We dropped nearly everything we were doing at that point and just focused on setting up those remote accounts. That accounted for 90% of our activity for two weeks straight."

The remaining 10% of the group's activity for those two weeks included working with judges to develop processes for conducting virtual hearings. "We started by working with the criminal bench to figure out how to conduct hearings for both in-custody and out-of-custody defendants," Martin said. The in-custody hearings required working with Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center staff to create a teleconferencing plan that allowed defendants to "appear" in the courtroom via a video feed.

[For the rest of the story, click here.](#)

"We have just tried to be as creative as we can in leveraging technology to keep things moving," said Martin Davis, the court's IT operations manager.

They have indeed kept things moving—starting with accommodating the large number of court employees who shifted to teleworking mode almost immediately after New Mexico



### Shout outs



**This is the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.**

This week's shout out is an homage to **Allan Lujan**, our former IT Specialist Manager, who recently left us much too early. This issue of the newsletter is devoted to the great work the IT Division has done in keeping our court running during the pandemic. And Allan was vital to those efforts. Most of us knew Allan as a really nice guy who solved computer problems for us. Take a look at the next page of this newsletter to learn more about Allan from the people at SJDC who knew him best: his IT Division colleagues.

## Memories of Allan Lujan

Funny, a practical joker. Those were the words his colleagues most often used to describe Allan Lujan. They also noted that he was helpful and kind. Below is a sampling of how Allan's closest co-workers remember him, in their own words.



*Allan was a very nice and caring person. I will keep his family in my prayers.*  
— **Ling Zhao**

*Allan was a people's person. He enjoyed putting a smile on your face when you were feeling down. I can remember he had a drawer in his office filled with toys and if he saw a mom in the hallway trying to keep her baby quiet he would take a toy out and give it to the kid and before long the kid was smiling. He was proud of our work family and he stood up for us and helped us when we needed it. He had a small town BIG heart and many stories to tell. He found a way into your heart to make you smile even when you didn't expect to. He will be missed and the memories I do have will keep me laughing and humble.*

— **Alina Stover**

*Allan always broke out a joke to anyone he spoke to, it didn't matter if he knew you, or just met you. He said each person had a unique look as a Cartoon Character. So he assigned one to each person he knew. Allan loved to walk around the courthouse looking at the public going in and out, and would assist anyone to where they needed to go.*

— **Rosanna Jaramillo**

*Allan was a very kind and funny man. His true love and passion was his daughter Laura. Laura was his heart and he would have done anything for her. He always talked about his family, his mom, brother, sister, niece and of course Teresa. Allan has many friends in the court. He was very welcoming to everyone and always made every effort to help anyone in need. He offered his snacks to anyone and everyone and always made jokes. Allan was very kind to my kids when they visited and always made every effort to work with my schedule to accommodate me and my family. He always responded to me by "ok boss". Allan will be greatly missed.*

— **Camille Garcia**

*I want to think this is one of his practical jokes, but I know that's not true. There isn't much I can say except I will miss him very much. He was quick with a joke, always willing to help and he strongly believed team harmony was the key to a well-running division. Rest in peace, Allan.*

— **Sara Gallegos**